

EPSCoR/IDeA

Coalition of States

Fall 2019 Newsletter



In this issue:

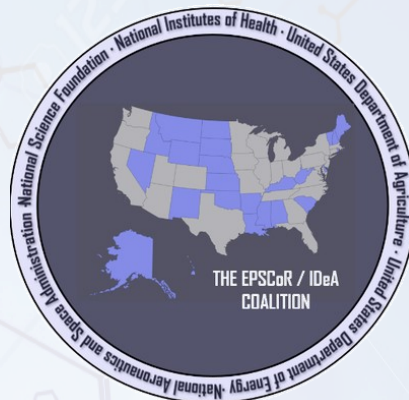
FY2020 Basic Research Funding Outlook

Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill

House Approves Record Funding Levels for EPSCoR/IDeA Programs!



Table of Contents:



EPSCoR/IDeA Programs—Budget Update	<u>Page 3</u>
Message from Stu Van Scoyoc	<u>Page 4</u>
FY2020 Basic Research Funding Outlook	<u>Page 5</u>
Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill	<u>Page 7</u>
DEPSCoR is Back!	<u>Page 10</u>
Madelyn Roeder Joins the EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation Team	<u>Page 11</u>
2020 Annual Meeting Announcement	<u>Page 11</u>

EPSCoR/IDEA PROGRAMS — BUDGET UPDATE



EPSCoR/IDEA FUNDING OVERVIEW

amounts in millions

Agency	FY17 Enacted	FY18 Enacted	FY19 Enacted	FY20 President's Budget Request	FY20 EPSCoR/IDEA Coalition Goals	FY20 House Approved
NSF	\$160.0	\$170.7	\$175.6	\$151.2	\$190.0	\$177.7
NIH	\$333.4	\$351.0	\$361.6	\$311.2	\$400.0	\$381.6
DOE	\$15.0	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$7.7	\$25.0	\$25.0
USDA	\$56.25*	\$60.0*	\$62.3*	n/a	15% Language	\$66.8*
NASA	\$18.0	\$18.0	\$21.0	\$0	\$28.0	\$25.0
DOD	-	-	\$12.0	\$0	\$25.0	\$10.5
Totals	\$582.65	\$619.0	\$652.5			\$686.6

**Represents 15% of Agriculture and Food Research Initiative*

The House of Representatives approved increases to five of the six EPSCoR/IDEA programs resulting in an overall increase of more than \$34 million above FY2019 funding levels!



A NOTE FROM STU VAN SCOYOC



As Congress' August recess comes to a close, I wanted to provide an update on what has been happening in Washington, DC, and what we anticipate happening in the fall.

We have seen several positive developments with the EPSCoR/IDeA programs in recent months. The EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation held another successful "Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill" day in partnership with the National Association of IDeA Principal Investigators (NAIPI); we've seen the Pentagon release the first Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) solicitation in many years; and we have been very successful in the appropriations process so far this year.

While the last few months on Capitol Hill have been filled with partisan tension and budget negotiations, I am happy to report that the EPSCoR/IDeA programs are on track for some of their highest funding levels, based on the House Appropriations Committee's actions. The House of Representatives approved more than \$680 million overall for the EPSCoR/IDeA programs including recommending funding increases for five of the six programs over FY2019 enacted levels. The process is not over and we expect to see the Senate weigh-in on these programs in September.

Before adjourning for the August recess, Congress and the Trump Administration came to an agreement that would increase spending and suspend the debt ceiling for two years. Under the terms of the agreement, the cap for discretionary spending will rise to \$1.37 trillion in FY2020 and \$1.375 trillion in FY2021. Non-defense spending will receive an additional \$27 billion in FY2020 and an additional \$29.5 billion in FY2021. Defense spending will see a \$22 billion increase in FY2020 and a \$24.5 billion increase in FY2021.

Republicans successfully pushed for more defense spending, securing a total of \$738 billion in FY2020 and \$741 billion in FY2021. Democrats secured \$632 billion in FY2020 and \$635 billion in FY2021 for domestic spending. Less than a quarter of the increased spending, or \$77.4 billion, would be offset with an extension of fees on cargo and passengers arriving in the U.S. and automatic cuts to Medicare and other programs that are currently set to expire in 2027.

With the two-year agreement in place, the Senate Appropriations Committee will now move forward with its spending bills beginning the week of September 9th. The current plan announced by Chairman Richard Shelby calls for the committee to consider four spending bills a week during the month of September in order to advance all twelve bills through committee before the end of the federal fiscal year. This will be a difficult task but one that I expect Chairman Shelby to successfully navigate.

The federal fiscal year ends on September 30th and this agreement will help House and Senate appropriators write the final spending legislation needed to avert a potential government shutdown in the fall. We expect that Congress will approve a Continuing Resolution (CR) prior to the end of FY2019 on September 30th that should fund the government until sometime in December, providing ample time to negotiate any sticking points in the FY2020 spending bills.

We are expecting a very busy fall on Capitol Hill and will be calling upon you to help bring the proposed funding increases for the EPSCoR/IDeA programs across the finish line.

FY2020 – Basic Research Funding Outlook

There has been bipartisan support for basic research funding in recent years in both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The House of Representatives continued the trend this year of Congress rejecting cuts and eliminations sought by the Trump administration to many important science and technology programs. The bills produced by the House Appropriations Committee and approved on the House floor would provide more than \$90 billion for research, \$5 billion above the FY2019 enacted level and more than \$17 billion above the administration's budget request. Of that amount, \$41.6 billion would be directed towards basic research, \$2 billion above last year and more than \$6.6 billion above the budget request.

The House-approved version of the FY2020 Energy & Water Development spending bill would provide \$5.1 billion for Department of Energy (DOE) research programs. Funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy research would be more than triple the president's budget request and is about 11 percent more than in FY2019. Funding for research initiatives within the Office of Fossil Energy would be about the same as in FY2019 and the Office of Science, home to DOE EPSCoR, would see a near \$300 million increase over FY2019 in the House-approved spending bill. ARPA-E would receive \$428 million, an increase of 17% relative to FY2019.

The FY2020 Department of Defense (DOD) spending bill included more than \$100 billion for Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation accounts, an increase of \$5.7 billion above the FY2019 enacted level. DOD would however see a small decrease in its basic and applied research budgets under the House-passed bill. The House approved \$2 billion for basic research programs at the Pentagon, about \$500 million less than the current year. The largest reduction, about \$50 million, would come from Navy programs. Applied research would be reduced by about \$600 million under the House bill from current levels.

The House-passed Commerce, Justice, Science spending bill provides a total of \$8.4 billion for NSF in FY2020, a 22% increase from the requested amount and \$561 million above FY2019. The legislation also provides about \$1 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology and rejects the Administration's proposal to defund the Manufacturing Extension Project program, providing instead a 10% increase.

Once again, the House approved a \$2 billion increase to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY2020 for a total of \$41.1 billion. This is \$7.2 billion more than was sought by the White House which had recommended significant reductions in research grant funding rates. Most Institutes would see a 4.9 percent increase in the House-passed bill. Media reports in recent weeks have indicated that the Senate Appropriations Committee will provide an allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill that is about \$5 billion lower than may have been expected in order to provide funding for the construction of the southern border wall. It is unclear at this time what impact that may have on NIH funding.



House Appropriations Committee in action

FY2020 – Basic Research Funding Outlook

The House has approved ten of the twelve annual spending bills. The two remaining, legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security and Legislative Branch, are not expected to receive floor time. The Legislative Branch measure was separated from an earlier spending package when controversy erupted over whether to increase congressional pay. That issue has been resolved and the provision providing a roughly \$4,500 pay increase was dropped. Following a divisive vote in July on a border security package, the House Democrats decided against scheduling floor time for the Department of Homeland Security spending bill. Many of the same sticking points would have arisen related to protections for migrant children in border shelters and the construction of a wall along the southern border. These issues will be addressed during conference negotiations with the Senate.



(l to r) Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, House Appropriations Committee Ranking member Kay Granger, Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Shelby elected to wait until a spending agreement was in place to begin considering FY2020 spending bills. Following the enactment of H.R.3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 in late July, Chairman Shelby instructed his committee staff to begin preparing spending bills for markups throughout the month of September. The expectation is that beginning the week of September 9th, the Senate Appropriations Committee will mark-up four bills per week, starting with Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, Energy & Water, and State-Foreign Operations, in an effort to advance all twelve through committee by September 30th.

Final decisions on all funding levels for research programs will be decided later this year. There will be the need for a Continuing Resolution (CR) before the end of September since there will only be 13 working days before the end of the fiscal year when Congress returns. House Democrats have pushed for a CR that extends until November 22nd. This would put pressure up against the Thanksgiving recess. However, others are pushing for a CR that runs as far as December 6th or 13th as a few of the more problematic bills might need more time to conference. Both Chairman Shelby and House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey have indicated that they are ready to negotiate this fall and finish the FY2020 appropriations process.

If you would like any additional information on these or other basic research programs, please contact Tom Quinn at Van Scoyoc Associates (tquinn@vsadc.com)

Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill!

On May 22, 2019, the EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation, National Association of IDeA Principal Investigators (NAIPI), and Van Scoyoc Associates hosted nine students for the second “Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill” day. The purpose of the visit was to provide students the opportunity to illustrate the importance of their IDeA INBRE experiences and thank their senators and representatives for supporting the EPSCoR/IDeA programs.

During the morning session, students listened to presentations by NAIPI President Dr. Doug Wright from the University of Kansas Medical Center, VSA President Stu Van Scoyoc, and the EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation Executive Director Jessica Molesworth. Students also had the opportunity to hear about how the EPSCoR/IDeA program came into being from the creator of the NSF EPSCoR program, Dr. Joseph Danek. The students also engaged in a discussion about the fiscal challenges facing the United States as well as the growth of NIH’s budget in recent years.

The students in attendance had specifically benefited from their states’ INBRE programs and Ms. Molesworth transitioned to discussing how the INBRE and COBRE programs focus on scientific training and mentorship, and provide a nationally applicable best practices model. She also shared student testimonials from the previous Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill day that demonstrated the value of INBRE experiences and each student this year had their own version of how the INBRE program had impacted them. These stories illustrated the importance of providing students with access to valuable biomedical research experiences regardless of their institution’s geographic location, ensuring the United States can tap into talent anywhere in the country.

The students ended the morning session with a working lunch. VSA’s Tom Quin, Katie Patru, and Shannon Campagna walked the group through the focus of their Hill meetings and highlighted the importance of each student telling their individual story and thanking their representatives for supporting the IDeA program.



Stu Van Scoyoc addresses the IDeA students before they begin their Capitol Hill Meetings

Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill – The Students



Destiny Mabalot, University of Hawaii – Honolulu, Hawaii

Destiny is a junior majoring in Anthropology and is on the pre-med track. She worked with Dr. Olivia George on a project titled “*Genetically Engineering Human Centrosome Proteins with Fluorescent Proteins to Observe Centrosome Behavior in Mitotic Cells Exposed to A Weekly Estrogenic Compound Bisphenol-A (BPA)*”.

Liberty Gendron, Saint Anselm College – Goffstown, NH

Liberty completed her B.A. in Biology from Saint Anselm College. She was an undergraduate research student at Dartmouth’s Thayer School of Engineering and an INBRE Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow at Dartmouth.



Ashley Griffin, University of Mississippi Medical Center – Jackson, MS

Ashley graduated from Delta State University with a B.S. in Biology and is starting a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. She was a 2018 Mississippi INBRE Summer Research Scholar and a McNair Research Scholar.

Eileen Parks, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center – Oklahoma City, OK

Eileen is a neuroscience graduate student who works as a research assistant at OUHSC’s Reynolds Oklahoma Center on Aging.



Akanji Toyosi, Salve Regina University – Newport, RI

Akanji completed her B.S. in Chemistry and has been a Rhode Island INBRE Research Fellow for the past two years. She worked in Dr. Susan Meschwitz’s lab, which focuses on the interface of organic synthesis, medicinal chemistry and chemical biology.

Take Your IDeA Science to Capitol Hill – The Students

Mallory Gibson, Pittsburg State University – Pittsburg, KS

Mallory completed her B.S. in Biology and aspires to be a medical scientist. She served as a student representative on the K-INBRE Network Steering Committee. Her most recent presentation was titled “*Maternal Immunity: Preimplantation Preparation*”.



Connor Hartupee, Louisiana Tech University – Ruston, LA

Connor completed his B.S. in Biology and will be applying to medical school in the coming year. He was mentored by Dr. Jaime Newman and Ph.D. candidate Joseph Straub.

Caitlin Hay, Furman University – Greenville, SC

Caitlin recently completed her B.S. in Biology. She has presented two research projects titled “*Alterations in desmosome structure due to pathogenic mutations in cardiac disease*” and “*Analysis of cardiac-specific mutations of the cell-cell adhesion protein Plakophilin-2*”.



Emily Rainey, Alderson Broaddus University – Philippi, WV

Emily is a senior with a double major in Biology and Chemistry. She works at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center of West Virginia University. Her INBRE project focused on understanding why women are experiencing earlier onset puberty.



DEPSCoR is Back!

Thanks to the efforts of the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition and Capitol Hill, Congress reauthorized the Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) program in FY2018 and appropriated \$12 million for a restructured version of program in FY2019. The DOD Office of Basic Research and the Coalition have been working together over the last year to establish the following as DEPSCoR's objectives:

- Enhance the capabilities of institutions of higher education in eligible states/territories to develop, plan, and execute science and engineering research that is relevant to DOD's mission and competitive under the peer-review systems;
- Increase the number of university researchers capable of performing research responsive to the needs of DOD; and

Eligibility

The FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act included a formula to determine eligibility based on how much DOD science and engineering funds were obligated to universities within the state/territory over a three-year average. As a result, 34 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are eligible to participate in DEPSCoR.



Structure of the Program

On July 16th, the DOD Basic Research Office released a [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) for a DEPSCoR competition that intends to encourage collaborations on projects of interest to the Pentagon. The program is structured to form a two-person team between 1) an investigator with prior funding from the DOD (within the past seven years) and 2) a researcher who has not previously received funding from the DOD.

The Army Research Office, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and Office of Naval Research also have programs to build facility capacity and to increase research infrastructure at universities. DEPSCoR funds will also be used to make awards in eligible states through the Young Investigator Program (YIP) and Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP).



Coalition Chairman Dr. Chris Lawson welcomes Dr. Bindu Nair to speak at the 2019 EPSCoR/IDeA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

Outreach

DOD has announced that it is holding a DEPSCoR Northeast regional meeting at the University of Rhode Island on September 26th. Program managers from the research agencies and other DoD representatives will participate in the meeting. More information can be found [here](#).

Madelyn Roeder Joins the EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation Team



The EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation is excited to welcome Madelyn Roeder to the team!

Madelyn excels in the in areas of funding opportunity identification and analysis and strategic research development. Madelyn will also be handling the social media and new [LinkedIn account for Foundation](#).

Prior to joining the Foundation, Madelyn served as a Research Assistant with the P20 Motivation and Learning Lab and the University of Kentucky's Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. She has collaborated on research projects in both traditional and nontraditional educational spaces, focusing on the experiences of undergraduate students pursuing engineering degrees.

Madelyn completed her Bachelor of the Arts in Political Science from the University of Kentucky and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration at American University.

SAVE THE DATE!

2020 EPSCoR/IDeA Annual Meeting Announcement



The 2020 EPSCoR/IDeA Annual Meeting will take place at the Phoenix Park Hotel on Capitol Hill on Monday, February 24, 2020 with the "Hill Day" planned for Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Additional details coming soon!



800 Maine Avenue, Southwest

Suite 800

Washington, DC 20024

Questions or need any additional information on the
programs discussed in this newsletter?

Contact Tom Quinn at Van Scoyoc Associates

tquinn@vsadc.com

(202) 638-1950